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**THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Vischer

Serial No.: 10/033,424

Filed: 12/27/01

Group Art Unit: to be assigned

Examiner: to be assigned

For: METHOD FOR PROCESSING A  
NUCLEIC ACID SAMPLE BY  
OSCILLATING A CARTRIDGE, A  
SYSTEM AND A CARTRIDGE  
FOR PERFORMING SUCH A  
METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: 1803-324-999

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FEB 13 2002  
TC 3100 MAIL ROOM

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.115**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with Rule 115 of the Rules of Practice, please enter the following amendment prior to examination of the above-captioned application. Filed herewith is Exhibit A.

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**IN THE SPECIFICATION**

A marked up version of the following amended paragraph is attached as Exhibit A.

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 3, line 21, please replace the paragraph beginning "According to a first aspect of the invention" with the following paragraph:

According to a first aspect of the invention the above aim is achieved with a method for processing a nucleic acid sample contained in a liquid, said method comprising introducing said liquid into a chamber of a cartridge which contains a chip shaped carrier, an active surface of which carries an array of oligonucleotides, said chamber having a